

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, April 11, 2000

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GRANGER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 11, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KAY GRANGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for 5 minutes.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIFE AND SERVICE OF ABNER WOODRUFF SIBAL

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the life and service of Abner Woodruff Sibal, former U.S. Representative from the Fourth District of Connecticut, the district I now represent.

Abner Sibal died this past January at age 78, leaving behind a large family and an honorable legacy. He would be celebrating his 79th birthday today. Mr. Sibal was a member of this body from 1961 to 1965 in the 87th and 88th Congresses. While here, he served on the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and its Subcommittee on Transportation and Aeronautics.

Mr. Sibal was born in Ridgewood, New York, and grew up in Connecticut. He graduated from Norwalk High School in 1938 and Wesleyan University in 1943, entered the U.S. Army after graduation from college, and served in both the European and Pacific theaters during World War II.

When Mr. Sibal was discharged as a first lieutenant in September 1946, he

went on to St. John's Law School, where he received his law degree in 1949. Abner Sibal was admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1949 and the Federal bar in 1965. He led an impressive career both before and after his time as a public servant.

From 1951 to 1955, he served as a prosecuting attorney in the city of Norwalk. Mr. Sibal served as a member of the Connecticut State senate from 1956 to 1960. He sat as a member of the Corporation Counsel of Norwalk from 1959 to 1960. He rose to the position of Republican minority leader for the last 2 years of his State senate tenure.

His hard work and leadership earned him the position of chairman of the Connecticut Commission on Corporate Law in 1959.

In addition, he was a delegate to each Connecticut Republican State Convention from 1952 through 1968 and a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1964.

After his years in Congress, Mr. Sibal practiced law in Washington before being appointed general counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by Gerald Ford in 1975. In 1979, he resumed his private law practice, joining the firm of Farmer, Wells, McGuinn & Sibal.

On a personal note, I was entering high school when Mr. Sibal became the Congressman of my Connecticut district. It was during this time I started to really become politically aware. I was learning about Congress and who my elected officials were.

Abner Sibal stands out in my mind as having been a leader I respected, admired, and wanted to emulate. Abner Woodruff Sibal is remembered as an honorable man, a hard working public servant, and an able legislator.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE FOR MORE LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, national security is a powerful concept; and in the name of national security, we have done extraordinary things, perhaps none more momentous than the victory during World War II and the huge mobilization that it required.

At times we use national security to cover up things perhaps we should not

do, some tragic mistakes abroad, not being truthful with the American public. Here at home, we have occasionally used national security to rationalize good things we probably should have done anyway. Our interstate highway system was done in the name, in part, of national defense, or the student defense loans in the 1960s and 1970s, or research that led to the Internet.

Today there is no greater threat to our national security worldwide than is posed by pollution, poverty, disease, and the unrest and misery that they produce.

We have serious environmental problems here at home that are the terrible hidden legacy of 60 years of our defense activities, among them, in my own Pacific Northwest, the terrible pollution at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, or Rocky Flats in Colorado, chemical weapons, toxic waste.

One of the most powerful ways to protect the environment and make community livable is for the Federal Government to lead by example, whether it is maybe requiring a post office to obey local land use laws and zoning codes and planning regulations, or have the GSA lead by example, being an exemplary landlord in our communities around the country, or maybe having the Federal Flood Insurance program reformed so it does not subsidize people living in places where God has repeatedly shown that he does not want them.

But the biggest, richest, and most visible opportunity to lead by example is to be found in the Department of Defense, whether, as I mentioned on this floor before, dealing with model ways to environmentally sensitively dismantle ships, or look at the opportunities posed by base closings around the country.

Our population is going to double in the course of this century. There are many great examples of over the long haul how, done right, base closings can help save the taxpayers' money and revitalize communities, not devastate them.

Army facilities nationwide are rich in historic buildings, structures, and districts. These historic properties potentially represent a significant and valuable heritage not just for the Army but for the Nation and particularly for the community in which they are located.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has helped develop a methodology for this and has helped launch more than 1,500 commercial districts